

**HONDURAS:****Army Commander Ousted**

**The peaceful removal of Army Commander Thumann over the weekend ended a divisive factional struggle over who would control the Army after a coming reshuffle.** [redacted] 25X1

Thumann  
Said out.

Thumann, Colonel Said—a leading candidate to be the next Army commander—and eight officers allied with him were ousted by Said's chief rival, Colonel Riera, and a group of lieutenant colonels known as the Sixth Promotion. The move reportedly had the support of Armed Forces Chief Regalado, who will also serve as Army commander until his scheduled retirement in January. [redacted]

Riera  
Regalado  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1

[redacted] Riera probably will replace Regalado and a Riera ally will become Army chief. [redacted]

[redacted] the struggle between Riera and Said intensified last week after Said unilaterally announced a series of rotations that would seriously weaken Riera. The reporting indicates that Thumann may have approved a Said plan to replace Riera as commander of a key unit with a Said backer. [redacted] 25X1

**Comment:** The end of the power struggle probably will contribute to military unity. Said does not appear capable of making a comeback at this time and may be sent abroad. Riera's reputation as a competent troop commander and politically savvy guardian of military interests—as compared with Said's record of intrigue and corruption—probably will help him consolidate power. [redacted] 25X1

The Sixth Promotion probably sided with Riera out of fear that Said would not share power as Army commander. In addition, Riera may have promised the group control over several important battalions and the service commands in 1990. [redacted] 25X1

The reshuffle is unlikely to lead to significant changes in military relations with President Azcona and in cooperation with US regional policy. Riera firmly supports the anti-Sandinista rebels' cause but is concerned about their presence in Honduras and will press hard for more compensation in return for backing them. [redacted] 25X1

**DIA Comment:** [redacted] although Said and his supporters have apparently decided to roll over, many of them are not likely to accept defeat easily. Nor does a complete Thumann ouster seem to be a readily acceptable fact, as he has enjoyed broadly based support in the past. Although the internal military situation appears to have stabilized for the time being, factional tensions are likely to continue, at least until January when different promotional groups are expected to rotate into senior-level military positions. [redacted] 25X1

~~Top Secret~~

29 September 1986